

Message Text

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NEA:JMONTVILLE (DRAFT)
NEA:MSTERNER (DRAFT)
IO:GBHELMAN (DRAFT)

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TO OAU COLLECTIVE
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 163024

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PORG, OAU, XA
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SUBJECT:MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
AND SUMMIT CONFERENCES, KHARTOUM, JULY 1978

REF: A) STATE 150348; B) STATE 155074;
C) ADDIS ABABA 2691

1. REFTEL (A) ASKED SELECTED AFRICAN POSTS TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS ON AFRICAN SECURITY ISSUES THAT MAY ARISE AT THE OAU SUMMIT. THIS IS ONE OF SEVERAL ADDITIONAL MESSAGES ASKING POSTS, IF APPROPRIATE, TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS ON OTHER ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE AT KHARTOUM. POSTS SHOULD USE THEIR OWN JUDGMENT ON LEVEL AND TIMING OF THE APPROACH (APPROACHES), UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED BY DEPARTMENT.

2. THE ISSUES COVERED BY THIS MESSAGE ARE THE ZIONISM-RACISM LINKAGE AND THE MIDDLE EAST. THE PURPOSE OF THE APPROACH IS TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WITH WHICH THE US VIEWS THESE ISSUES AND TO HIGHLIGHT THE WIDER RAMIFICATIONS OF ACTIONS THAT MAY BE TAKEN AT KHARTOUM. WHERE

DAS DALLEY AND OFFICE DIRECTOR HOLLOWAY HAVE ALREADY RAISED THESE ISSUES, POSTS MAY SUPPLEMENT THE REPRESENTATIONS AT THEIR DISCRETION. FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS ARE SUGGESTED FOR USE BY POSTS:

3. ZIONISM AS RACISM.

-- WE NOTE THAT THE DAKAR ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN APRIL, AND THE HAVANA MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU (NACB) IN MAY, CONFIDENTIAL

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REAFFIRMED THE Z-R LINKAGE. THESE WERE THE FIRST SUCH REAFFIRMATIONS AFTER A PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS.

-- INDICATIONS ARE THAT THIS IMPETUS WILL BE CARRIED OVER INTO THE UN SYSTEM. Z-R MAY BE AN IMPORTANT ISSUE AT THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION BEING HELD AT GENEVA IN AUGUST.

-- SOME OF THE AFRICAN STATES HAVE BEEN AMONG THE MOST VOCAL OPPONENTS OF REAFFIRMATION OF Z-R, VIEWING IT AS AN IRRELEVANT DIVERSION FROM THE MAIN BUSINESS OF COMBATTING APARTHEID. THEY WILL BE A KEY FACTOR IN DETERMINING HOW FAR THE PRESENT Z-R IMPETUS WILL GET IN THE UN SYSTEM.

-- THE US BELIEVES THAT INTERNATIONAL ACTION IN THE FIELD OF RACISM SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED AGAINST APARTHEID, THE ONLY EXAMPLE IN THE WORLD OF RACISM WHICH IS DEFINED, SANCTIONED AND INSTITUTIONALIZED AT THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT ANY

RE-SURFACING OF THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE IN THE UN SYSTEM WOULD GENERATE CONTROVERSY, BE DESTRUCTIVE OF THE UN SYSTEM ITSELF, AND UNDERMINE EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST APARTHEID.

-- THE US TOTALLY REJECTS Z-R AND MAINTAINS ITS POLICY OF NON-PARTICIPATION IN ANY UN ACTIVITIES TIED IN WITH IT. IN CONFORMITY WITH THIS POLICY, WE WILL BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD CONFERENCE UNLESS THE LINK WITH Z-R CAN BE BROKEN.

-- WE REGRET THE NECESSITY OF THIS DECISION AND FULLY SHARE THE AFRICAN CONCERN THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF STATES IN THE ANTI-APARTHEID EFFORT NOT BE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNNECESSARILY HAMPERED BY SUCH DIVERSIONS.

-- WE WOULD WELCOME HOST GOVERNMENT ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY SCENARIO REGARDING Z-R AT KHARTOUM, AS WELL AS OF THE POSSIBLE RAMIFICATIONS AT THE BELGRADE NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN JULY AND IN THE UN SYSTEM.

4. FOR ABIDJAN, ACCRA AND LAGOS: HOST GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY HELPFUL ON Z-R IN ECOSOC AND, MOST RECENTLY, AT THE UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE LAST MARCH. WITH THEIR HELP, THE DRAFT DECLARATION THAT WAS REFERRED TO THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR APPROVAL CONTAINED NO REFERENCE, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, TO Z-R. HOWEVER, STRONG NIGERIAN AND IVORIAN VIEWS ON THE US DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD CONFERENCE (LAGOS 7710 (NOTAL); ABIDJAN 5807 (NOTAL)) INDICATES THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO TAKE THE AFRICAN POSITION ON Z-R FOR GRANTED.

5. MIDDLE EAST.

-- WE NOTE THAT THE HAVANA NACB MEETING MADE A VEILED CONDEMNATION OF EGYPTIAN PEACE INITIATIVES TOWARD ISRAEL IN THE FORM OF AN ATTACK ON US MIDDLE EAST POLICY. THIS LANGUAGE GOES BEYOND PREVIOUS NON-ALIGNED PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST. IT SEEMS TO REVERSE THE MODERATING TREND IN NAM LANGUAGE OBSERVABLE SINCE THE 1976 COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT, AT LEAST AS FAR AS THE MIDDLE EAST IS CONCERNED.

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-- ACQUIESCENCE IN AND SUPPORT FOR SUCH ATTACKS ON US MOTIVES AND POLICY, AND TAKING SIDES IN THE INTRA-ARAB DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE INITIATIVES, CAN ONLY HAMPER THE PROCESS OF FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

-- THE US REMAINS COMMITTED TO FINDING A JUST AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. WE BELIEVE THAT, DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES, THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS INITIATED BY THE SADAT VISIT TO JERUSALEM IS STILL VIABLE AND OFFERS THE MOST PROMISING AVENUE FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

-- OAU PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM CAN HAVE AN IMPORTANT EFFECT ON NON-ALIGNED AND UN MIDDLE EAST DELIBERATIONS AND ON THE ATMOSPHERICS

SURROUNDING THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES. WE WOULD HOPE ANY SUCH PRONOUNCEMENTS AT KHARTOUM WOULD NOT FURTHER COMPLICATE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

6. POSTS MAKING REPRESENTATIONS AS A RESULT OF THIS CABLE SHOULD REPORT THE RESULTS TO THE DEPARTMENT. IF NO REPRESENTATIONS ARE MADE, NEGATIVE REPORTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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